

CLAIMS

1. A rigid balloon comprising:
 - a first skin portion;
 - a second skin portion joined to said first skin portion at a double seam defining a channel extending about the periphery of the first and second skin portions;
 - a compartment disposed between said first and second portions;
 - at least one rod member disposed within said channel, said rod member having opposed ends;
 - at least one connector secured to at least one of said opposing rod ends to hold said rod member in said channel; and
 - a valve extending into the compartment through which gas may be inserted.
2. The balloon of claim 1, wherein at least one of said first and second skin portions is made from polyethylene terephthalate.
3. The balloon of claim 1, wherein said at least one rod member is made from fiberglass.
4. The balloon of claim 1, wherein said connector is a brass fitting.

5. The balloon of claim 1, wherein said first and second skin portions for a balloon having a non-spherical shape.

6. The balloon of claim 1, wherein said compartment is 5 filled with helium.

7. A rigid balloon comprising:

a first skin portion;

a second skin portion joined to said first skin portion at a double seam defining a channel extending 10 about the periphery of the first and second skin portions;

a compartment disposed between said first and second portions;

15 at least one rod member disposed within said channel, said rod member having opposed ends; and at least one connector secured to at least one of said opposing rod ends.

8. The balloon of claim 7 further comprising a valve extending into the compartment through which gas may be 20 inserted.

9. The balloon of claim 7, wherein at least one of said first and second skin portions is made from polyethylene terephthalate.

10. The balloon of claim 7, wherein said compartment is filled with helium.

11. A rigid helium balloon comprising:

a first skin portion;

5 a second skin portion joined to said first skin portion at a double seam about their periphery, the double seam defining a channel extending about the periphery of the first and second skin portions;

10 a helium compartment disposed between said first and second portions;

at least one rod member disposed within said channel, said rod member having opposed ends;

15 at least one connector secured to at least one of said opposing rod ends to hold said rod member in said channel; and

a valve extending into the compartment through which gas may be inserted.

12. A rigid helium balloon comprising:

a first skin portion;

20 a second skin portion joined to said first skin portion at a first peripheral seam and at a second peripheral seam, said second peripheral seam being spaced from said first peripheral seam;

a helium compartment disposed between said first and second skin members;

a channel portion defined between said first peripheral seam and said second peripheral seam, said channel portion

5 having at least two rod apertures;

at least one rod member disposed within said channel portion, said rod member having opposing ends; and

a connector secured to at least one of said opposing rod ends;

10 wherein said first and second skin portions are made from polyethylene terephthalate.